

# Sr. Cathleen Ryan, OP

Interviewed by Jaci Spoerl

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## **Talk about ‘your call’ and/or ‘your discernment.’**

Sister Cathleen felt a draw to mission work as early as high school. She pulled against the current by attending business school before moving to New York. Though successful, she had the persistent feeling that her life was missing something. While out for dinner with friends the calling echoed with a deafening roar, and she knew she wanted to enter the convent. Before diving in head-first, she discussed her inclinations with a friend with an insider’s perspective on religious life. The conversation stifled all hesitation within Sister Cathleen, even her earnest consideration of married life. Despite the currents of life pulling her in every direction, she knew, deep within, that the convent was her next destination.

## **Do Sisters ever think about leaving?**

“No.”

## **Name some of your ministries you were involved in – tell about one in detail.**

A teacher serving students of all levels, Sister Cathleen fuses her vocation in education with over seven years of business-related ventures in the private sector. With a special calling to teaching adults and serving in parish ministry, she has kept religious education very close to her heart.

## **It seems that religious life is ‘dying’ – what do you think; why do you stay?**

In lieu of “dying,” Sister Cathleen offers “changing” as a better word to describe the trend in religious life, which she explains to be taking on a new perspective amidst an ever-changing world. She would find it very hard to let go and stays because she made a commitment – not one based on the way things were at the time; rather, a commitment to what God wanted of her.